

<p style="text-align: center;">GRAND GULCH *</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Grand Gulch and Tributaries in Instant Study Area</p>			
Length In Miles	Outstandingly Remarkable Values - ORVs	Level of Significance	Tentative Classification
52	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic • Recreation • Wildlife • Historic • Cultural 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional • National • Regional • National • National 	Wild

* Grand Gulch Instant Study Area and ACEC, and within Cedar Mesa SRMA

Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

- **Scenic** – VRM Class 1 with Class A scenic quality. Grand Gulch is a steep walled, meandering canyon with walls up to 800 feet high, pinnacles, rock outcrops, alcoves, benches, spires, pour offs, and rincons. The colorful Cedar Mesa Sandstone walls, combined with one of the most important prehistoric archeological localities in the world, mark the canyon bottoms and are associated with the canyon's water sources. Spring and fall seasons offer the visual treat of snow and ice on rims and canyon floors. As the snow melts, small waterfalls, and swiftly running water throughout the canyon offer an outstanding visual contrast with the diverse vegetation and red rock walls outlining alcoves filled with prehistoric cultural sites.
- **Recreation** – Outstanding opportunities for both solitude and unconfined recreation attract the visitor to a diversity of natural, historical, geological, and cultural features in conjunction with the Grand Gulch watershed. Uses include back packing, day hiking, horseback riding, photography, wildlife viewing, orienteering and canyoneering, and viewing of prehistoric archeological sites. Scientific research is ongoing and includes archeological site documentation, wildlife observations, geological surveys, and plant studies. Numerous guidebooks have been written on the recreational opportunities in Grand Gulch.

Access to Grand Gulch is limited to four main trailhead entries at the top of the tributary canyons, or by traveling upstream through the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area via boat on the San Juan River. Due to the increasing popularity of Grand Gulch and its tributaries, there is an allocated visitor permit system currently in place limiting the number of backpackers at any one time. Stock is allowed but on a limited basis.

Hiking and Archeology – The combination of backpacking and exploring within the proximity of a large number of prehistoric archeological sites is a rare and unique opportunity found in few areas, and attracts visitors from the world over.

- **Wildlife** - Grand Gulch is within designated critical habitat for Mexican spotted owl. Surveys have been conducted in this canyon and there have been owls using the area. The habitat in this canyon is also critical for peregrine falcon and other raptors, as well as neo-tropical birds.
- **Historic** – The Grand Gulch has national historic significance as the location where Richard Wetherill was finally able to demonstrate that a cultural group he identified as the Basketmakers predated the prehistoric Pueblo people. This concept has become a basic underpinning of Southwestern Archeology, and is one of the significant discoveries in North American Archeology.
- **Cultural** – Recent research has demonstrated that Grand Gulch has been occupied for over 7,000 years. Most of the occupation has taken place in the large, dry alcoves found there, but some sites are also located on the benches at the bottom of the Gulch. Grand Gulch has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places in recognition of the importance of the archeological sites found there, and their role in the history of North American Archeology. The best known cultural remains are prehistoric Puebloan habitation, but the older Basketmaker sites and the numerous rock art sites may have more scientific importance.